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(WASHINGTON, D.C.) – Today, Congressman Russ Carnahan (MO-3) voted with the House to pass a fiscally responsible budget with the right priorities for America's families. This budget restores fiscal responsibility and accountability, strengthens the national defense and invests in the next generation and America's prosperity. The budget reinstates tough pay-as-you-go budget rules to ensure that budget discipline is permanent.

**"After six years of the Republican-led House passing budgets with enormous deficits, I commend the House for passing a budget that finally restores fiscal discipline and reaches balance in five years," Carnahan said.**

In order to institute fiscal discipline, this budget also includes provisions to invest in efforts to identify and eliminate wasteful spending and improve government efficiency. For example, it contains provisions blowing the whistle on waste, fraud and abuse in federal contracting – such as occurred in Halliburton contracts in Iraq and in Katrina-related contracts.

The budget strengthens our national defense and honors our promises to Missouri's brave troops and veterans. The budget provides the largest increase for veterans' health care in the history of the nation, providing \$3.5 billion more than the President's budget. This will help to ensure that the 554,532 veterans in Missouri receive care worthy of their sacrifice.

Children and families are placed first in this budget. In Missouri, 124,490 children do not have health insurance. This budget helps these children by increasing funding for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) – reducing the number of uninsured children across the county.

**Carnahan said, "Since my election to Congress, I have worked to improve children's health care. I am proud that the House has genuinely acted in the best interests of our children, passing legislation that will truly help every child, regardless of income."**

This budget also provides substantially more funding for Missouri's 911,800 children enrolled in public elementary, middle and high schools – providing nearly \$8 billion more for education and training than the President's budget.

In addition, this budget grows the economy, funding the House Democratic innovation agenda – such as putting the U.S. on the path to double funding for the National Science Foundation. This budget recognizes that the 495,300 small businesses in Missouri are the engine of the economy. To spur economic growth and support small businesses, the budget rejects the President's proposal to cut the Small Business Administration by 26 percent from last year's request.

**“This budget invests in renewable energy and energy efficiency to reduce our dependence on foreign oil, reduce global warming and promote new technologies that can create American jobs,” Carnahan said.□ □**

The budget also restores funding for environmental programs cut by the President's budget – including restoring \$10,958,000 in Clean Water revolving loan funds in Missouri that help improve wastewater treatment.

Finally, this budget supports middle-class tax cuts and protects middle-income families from a tax increase by setting up a reserve fund for a long-term fix for the alternative minimum tax (AMT). In 2004, 34,000 Missouri families were subject to the AMT – and if nothing is done to fix the system, an estimated 253,000 families in Missouri will be subject to the AMT in 2007.

**“After years of rising deficits and national debt, this budget finally puts us on the right course, and is a step in the right direction for all of America's families,” said Carnahan.□**